

2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals:

Terms and Conditions

Definitions

Applicant:

An organization or individual submitting a proposal to the 2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals, researching ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE).

Awardee:

The entity or individual selected to receive funding and support from the 2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals to carry out their proposed project. Awardees are responsible for executing the project as outlined in their proposal and complying with the terms and conditions contained in this document.

Collaborator:

An entity or individual that works with the applicant or awardee on the proposed project, but is not the primary applicant or awardee. Collaborators will receive funds from the applicant and play a specific role in the project's execution. Collaborators must comply with the terms and conditions contained in this document.

Global OAE Field Research Network (FRN):

Carbon to Sea's Global OAE Field Research Network is an open call within the 2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals. The FRN aims to accelerate the pace of empirical field research generation and discovery by uniting researchers and organizations into a dynamic, interconnected ecosystem of knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Targeted Research & Innovation:

Targeted Research & Innovation is an open call within the 2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals, including grant types 2A (Sediment Additionality) and 2B (Alkalinity Innovation). The Targeted Research & Innovation grants aim to advance critical scientific questions that evaluate responsible and scalable OAE.

Terms & Conditions are subject to change pending legal review, and will be finalized during the contracting phase between both parties.

Introduction

These Terms and Conditions establish key guidance and governance principles for award selection, grant activities and outcomes, and participation. They set clear expectations for awardees on the operational conduct and execution of the grant throughout its lifecycle.

Applicants should acknowledge that the acceptance of grant funding would require the awardee and collaborators to fully comply and adhere to the Terms and Conditions described in this document. Applicants should also note that many of the conditions described will also be formally incorporated into grant agreement language.

Project Agreement

Upon notification of a successful proposal and after adequately addressing any outstanding questions or clarifications, awardees must sign a Project Agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the funding. This 2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals is funded through Carbon to Sea. Funding for awarded proposals will be dispersed and managed by Carbon to Sea. The agreement must be returned within 14 days to confirm acceptance.

Awarded funds will be paid in lump-sum or installments in accordance with project term length. Carbon to Sea and awardees will negotiate the percentage split of the award amount to be divided across the project term.

Key Conditions

Use of Funds

Funds may be used for direct project costs, including personnel, equipment, materials, analysis, travel and accommodations, vessel chartering, convening activities, and other similar expenses. Indirect costs such as administrative support salaries, general office equipment, etc., may be included, but must not exceed 15% of the total project budget as per Carbon to Sea's Overhead Cost Policy:

Carbon to Sea Initiative may fund direct or indirect operating expenses, or "overhead costs". Overhead costs are not to exceed 15% of the total project costs and should be grouped into a separate "overhead" line item in the project budget. Any instances where overhead costs will exceed 15% of total project costs require prior written approval from Carbon to Sea Initiative.

Funds may not be used for unrelated or personal expenses, unrelated business activities, lobbying efforts, or to subsidize carbon crediting operations.

Data Sharing Policy

All data should be managed and shared in compliance with Carbon to Sea, NOAA, and Submarine Scientific's published [OAE Data Management Protocol](#).

The awardee and collaborators agree to publicly share data generated from the funded research within 3-12 months of project completion, depending on the complexity of data analysis and synthesis. Applicants must outline plans for making data accessible to other researchers and the public, including timelines for data release and which data repository will be used. In addition to uploading to a data repository, all field data generated shall be discoverable in the **OAE Field Data Commons**, a shared data platform under development by Carbon to Sea and Submarine Scientific. To be included in the OAE Field Data Commons, you must complete the required metadata using the [OAE Metadata Builder](#). The following data repositories can be used accordingly:

- Discrete and sensor data, along with data from field trial studies should be stored in a reputable, long term repository such as:
 - NOAA's Ocean Carbon and Acidification Data System (OCADS) (includes metadata schema reflecting most of the contents in this protocol, up to 1 GB storage)
 - Zenodo (up to 50 GB storage)
 - SEANOE
 - BCO-DMO (NSF-funded projects only)
 - SeaDataNet (must be in an affiliated node)
 - NOAA NCEI (must apply for a data agreement)
- Model output data are recommended to be stored at:
 - Zenodo (up to 50 GB storage)
 - If data are too large to be archived at Zenodo, then a suitable alternative may need to be identified.
- Environmental DNA (eDNA) are recommended to be stored at:
 - National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)

The open-access repositories used must adhere to Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (F.A.I.R.) principles. It is recommended that data be backed up and stored in secondary locations. For ease of use, a secondary repository with a quicker submission work flow such as Zenodo, Figshare, PANGAEA is recommended, other openly accessible options or other domain-specific archives providing a DOI are also permissible.

Data (if applicable) must be shared under creative commons open licences [CC0-1.0](#) or [CC-BY 4.0](#), except for proprietary data. Compliance with ethical standards and relevant approvals is the responsibility of the applicant, with privacy protections for sensitive data.

Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property ownership, licensing rights, publication rights, and related matters will be set forth in the final award agreement. Carbon to Sea anticipates requiring certain rights to use and make public project results in support of its mission, including research, educational, reporting, and communication activities. All such rights and obligations will be defined in the applicable award documentation.

Public Communications

Carbon to Sea Initiative and any additional co-funders of the grant funding opportunities have the right to publicly communicate about the funded research, including the use of photos, blogs, interviews, and other media, with credit and citation to the awardee and collaborators.

Awardees and collaborators retain the right to publish their findings in scientific journals.

Public Acknowledgement

Grantees and collaborators' publications, presentations, press releases, and/or similar public-facing materials resulting from this research must acknowledge the project was supported by the Carbon to Sea Initiative. Such acknowledgement will be in the form requested by Carbon to Sea, or in the absence of such request will be "Funding for this project was provided [in part] by Carbon to Sea."

For grants awarded under the FRN call, grantees and collaborators must acknowledge that the research was conducted as a part of the *Global OAE Field Research Network*, an initiative managed and funded (if applicable) by the Carbon to Sea Initiative.

Regulatory Compliance

Proposals must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines, both local and international, that pertain to the proposed research area. This includes obtaining all necessary regulatory permissions before commencing the project where applicable. If support is required in navigating the local regulatory landscape, applicants are encouraged to reach out to their project's Carbon to Sea point of contact for support and guidance.

Environmental Conduct**Environmental Best Practices**

All field research should be conducted in accordance with Carbon to Sea and PML's recently developed [Environmental Impact Monitoring Framework](#) (EIMF).

The awardee and collaborators agree to consult the EIMF and apply the relevant stage-gated monitoring criteria and key activity recommendations to their conducted research, where and when applicable. The EIMF is designed to align OAE field researchers and practitioners around a shared set of considerations, while enabling

project leads and stakeholders to design an environmental impact monitoring suite that is fit-for-purpose and tailored to the unique approach and application circumstances of their project.

Reporting Requirements

Interim Report(s)

Submitted to Carbon to Sea in accordance with the project's payment schedule. This report must summarize the activities, milestones achieved, and obstacles encountered, compared to the project's planned objectives and timeline, as well as a list of new publications and presentations generated in relation to the research.

Interim reporting may not be required depending on project term length and scope.

Final Report

Submitted to Carbon to Sea at the conclusion of your project (no later than five business days after defined project end date), this document will summarize the project goals, outcomes, lessons learned, next steps for the research team, and your data dissemination strategy. The report should include a list of any in-progress or published literature, presentations, or other media generated as a result of the project.

Financial Report(s)

Submitted to Carbon to Sea alongside the interim and final reports, a detailed financial report will enumerate how the awarded funds have been spent in each category.

Contact Information

For any questions or support related to the terms and conditions, applicants can contact Carbon to Sea at RFP@carbontosea.org.